



CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
parks and recreation

401 N. Morton, Ste. 250
Bloomington IN 47404

Get Involved!

GET INVOLVED ... VOLUNTEER!

City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department volunteers provide valuable services to the community by assisting in many events and programs in a variety of ways. Volunteers can participate on a regular basis or on occasion as desired. There are many opportunities to choose from and an assortment of times and days available.

Volunteer opportunities exist in the following areas:

- Adult sports
- Class instructors
- Clerical services
- Community events
- Cultural arts
- Environmental efforts
- Farmers' Market
- Inclusion programs
- Park projects
- Research/surveys
- Senior citizen programs
- Trail maintenance
- Youth sports
- Youth programs

If you would like to be a volunteer with the City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department contact Kim Ecenbarger at 812-349-3739 or ecenbark@bloomington.in.gov.

City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department • Volunteer Opportunities
401 N. Morton, Ste. 250 • Bloomington IN 47404

Make friends • Earn service learning credits
Gain experience • Have fun

EVENT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

TRAINING: Volunteers will be trained at the beginning of their shifts.

Community Gardening

Grow closer to local food! Community Gardening grows both plants and community. Since 1984, the Parks and Recreation Department has offered community gardening opportunities for people of all ages and backgrounds. A favorite venue of volunteer groups, the gardens benefit from a number of service projects throughout the year.

Duties:	Volunteers assist the staff in maintaining paths, turning compost, weeding, and harvesting as well as creating and maintaining ornamental, wildlife, and demonstration plantings.
Program Time:	Schedule your group for a three- to four-hour shift.
Locations:	Willie Streeter or Butler Park Community Gardens
Age of Volunteers:	12 yrs. and up
Number of Volunteers:	Groups of 5–25

Schedule a Day, May–October

Volunteer to Maintain our Natural Spaces

Help maintain and restore some of Bloomington's most scenic natural areas. Many group volunteer projects are available throughout the Bloomington community. Help is needed in the parks listed below.

Duties:	Staff will work with your group or organization to formulate a work plan. Duties may include applying wood chips or gravel to paths, removing invasive plant species, trimming obstructive vegetation, or re-routing trails.
Program Time:	Schedule your group for a three- to four-hour shift.
Location:	Leonard Springs Nature Park, Griffy Lake Nature Preserve, Wapehant Mountain Bike Park, RCA Community Park, Winslow Woods Park, and Bryan Park

Age of Volunteers: 12 yrs. and up
Number of Volunteers: Groups of 5-25

Schedule a Day, May–November

Bryan Park Creek Maintenance Days

ce Days **Wednesdays,**
May 6, June 3,
July 1, August 5,
September 2, October 7

Bloomington Parks and Recreation has earned Community Wildlife Habitat certification from the National Wildlife Federation. The Bryan Park Creek naturalized area played a key role in certification and requires periodic maintenance to control invasive plant species and ensure native plant success.

Duties: Volunteers assist with monthly upkeep of this natural area along beautiful Bryan Park Creek. Help maintain native plants by cutting back overgrown brush, removing invasive plants, and collecting native plant seeds.

Program Time: 5:30–7 p.m.

Location: Bryan Park, 1100 S. Woodlawn Ave.—Woodlawn Shelter

Age of Volunteers: 12 yrs. and up (Children under age 12 yrs. must be accompanied by an adult.)

Number of Volunteers: 5–30

Learn to Ride

Children will spend the entire summer cruising on their bicycles after this Bloomington Bikes Week program. Participants learn how to confidently and safely ride their bikes through individual instruction, and also learn about bike maintenance, road safety, and proper bike and helmet fittings.

Duties: Proper instruction is an important aspect of bicycle riding. Volunteers collaborate with Park staff to teach children riding etiquette and techniques that will keep them safe as they ride their bikes.

Program Time: 4-5:30 p.m.
Location: Sherwood Oaks Christian Church, 2700 E. Rogers Rd.—southeast corner of parking lot
Age of Volunteers: 16 yrs. and up
Number of Volunteers: 4-6 per day
Other: Sign up for one or both sessions of Learn to Ride. Volunteers will do a lot of running. Class will be rescheduled in case of inclement weather.

**Tuesday–Thursday, May 5–7 and
Tuesday–Thursday, May 12–14**



The 50+ Expo— Tropical Paradise


The 50+ Expo features free health screenings, plus an expo hall filled with exhibitors with information about products and services for older adults and their families.

Duties: Volunteers may decorate, direct exhibitors to their spaces, greet participants, distribute 50+ Expo information, collect participant feedback, and tear down the event.

Program Time: **Tuesday:** 2–5 p.m. (10–12 volunteers)/Event setup
Wednesday shifts:
Shift #1, 11:30 a.m.–3 p.m. (5–7 volunteers)/Exhibit hall assistants
Shift #2, 2:30–4:45 p.m. (2 volunteers)/Welcome table
Shift #3, 3–5 p.m. (2 volunteers)/General Expo and evaluations
Shift #4, 4:30–7 p.m. (2 volunteers)/Welcome table
Shift #5, 5–7 p.m. (2 volunteers)/General Expo and evaluations
Shift #6, 7–8 p.m. (10 volunteers)/Event teardown

Location: Twin Lakes Recreation Center, 1700 W. Bloomfield Rd.

Age of Volunteers: 16 yrs. and up

The logo for 'Expo Tropical Paradise' features the word 'Expo' in a large, bold, serif font. Below it, the words 'TROPICAL PARADISE' are written in a smaller, all-caps, sans-serif font. The text is set against a background that includes a stylized palm tree and a beach scene with a small boat.

Ferguson Dog Park Cleanup Days

Bloomington Parks and Recreation opened Ferguson Dog Park, a park specifically for dogs and their owners, in fall 2012. Our goal is to offer a safe and environmentally clean green space at the park. Periodic maintenance and upkeep is needed to ensure a sustainable park for the future.

Duties:	Several landscaped areas enhance the aesthetics of the dog park and help address potential environmental hazards associated with maintaining the park. Volunteers learn more about the proactive work being done by our natural resources area and help maintain the native plant areas.
Program Time:	5:30–7 p.m.
Location:	Ferguson Dog Park, 4300 N. Stone Mill Rd.
Age of Volunteers:	12 yrs. and up (Children under age 12 yrs. must be accompanied by an adult.)
Number of Volunteers:	5–30

Bike Rodeo

The Bike Rodeo is a free, family-oriented event that both entertains and educates children on cycling safety and the importance of wearing bike helmets. Participants can bike through an obstacle course, enjoy healthy snacks, and learn something new!

Duties:	If you value child safety, the Bike Rodeo provides a great opportunity to get involved. Volunteers assist with the safety challenge course, fit bike helmets, and distribute snacks and door prizes.
Program Time:	9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
Location:	Parking lot on Rogers and Tenth Streets (by the B-Line Trail)
Age of Volunteers:	18 yrs. and up
Number of Volunteers:	6–8

Saturday, May 30

Active Living Coalition Health Fair Saturday, May 30

Get up, get out, and get active at the Active Living Coalition's annual Health Fair! Patrons can visit more than 20 health and wellness-related booths, watch exercise demonstrations, take home some special giveaways, and gather all the information needed to live a healthy lifestyle!


Duties: Support health and wellness efforts in our community. Early morning volunteers prepare set up the event and assist exhibitors. While late morning volunteers distribute water, welcome returning participants, and deconstruct the route.

Program Time: Shift #1, 7–10 a.m./Shift #2, 10 a.m.–1 p.m.

Location: Showers Plaza, 401 N. Morton St.

Age of Volunteers: 16 yrs. and up

Number of Volunteers: 2–4 per shift





National Trails Day 2015

Participate in the American Hiking Society's 23rd Anniversary of National Trails Day! Hiking trails allow us to keep in touch with the natural world while exercising and relieving stress. A wide variety of recreation, fitness, and transportation goals can be achieved with a good trail system.

Duties: Volunteers are needed to help maintain Griffy Lake Nature Preserve.

Program Time: 9 a.m.-noon

Location: Griffy Lake Nature Preserve, 3300 N. Headley Rd.

Age of Volunteers: 14 yrs. and up (Children under 14 yrs. must be accompanied by an adult.)

Number of Volunteers: 25

Saturday, June 6

Touch a Truck

Wednesday, June 10

Rain date: Thursday, June 11

Children get up close and personal with fire trucks, ambulances, buses, bucket trucks, and more. They explore the inner workings or the outside gadgets of the big rigs they have always been curious about!

Duties:

Do you enjoy seeing amazement on the faces of small children? Come experience it firsthand. Volunteers assist with event setup, monitor stations, and distribute refreshments and snacks to our guests. Shift #1, 8:30 a.m.–12:15 p.m./Shift #2, noon–3 p.m. Twin Lakes Sports Park, 2350 W. Bloomfield Rd.—parking lot 16 yrs. and up

Number of Volunteers: 5 per shift

Program Time:

Location:

Age of Volunteers:

Number of Volunteers:

TOUCH A TRUCK

Bug Fest

Saturday, June 27

Visitors learn all about amazing insects at Bloomington’s third annual Bug Fest! Go on an insect safari, handle cool insects, make a craft, and participate in a mealworm race or cricket-spitting contest. The day includes speakers and information booths on a variety of buggy topics. Partners include Bloomington Parks and Recreation, Monroe County Parks and Recreation, The WonderLab Museum, Purdue Extension office, and Hilltop Garden and Nature Center.

Duties:

Volunteers engage children in bug exploration. Discuss various types of bugs, lead a bug activity, supervise bug-related arts n’ crafts, or work with our speaker series. Share your interest in outdoor education with children. It inspires! Shift #1, 9 a.m.–1 p.m./Shift #2, 12:45–3:45 p.m. Hilltop Garden and Nature Center, 2367 E. 10th St. 18 yrs. and up

Number of Volunteers: 10–12 per shift

Program Time:

Location:

Age of Volunteers:

Number of Volunteers:

Fourth of July Parade

Saturday, July 4

Everybody loves a PARADE! People with lawn chairs in hand head downtown to celebrate while waving their flags proudly! The Parade is brought to the community by Bloomington Parks and Recreation and Downtown Bloomington, Inc., and is sponsored by the American Legion Burton Woolery Post 18.

Duties:

Volunteers help with road closures and organizing entries in specified holding area. 7:30–11:30 a.m. Meet at the Sample Gates, Indiana and Kirkwood Avenues. 18 yrs. and up

Number of Volunteers: 2

Program Time:

Location:

Age of Volunteers:

Number of Volunteers:

Bryan Park Itsy Bitsy Kids Triathlon

Saturday, July 11

Encourage children ages 5–10 yrs. to get active with this fun, non-competitive event! The triathlon includes a 50-meter swim in Bryan Park Pool, 1.5-mile cycle, and .5-mile run. Every child who takes part is a winner!

Duties:

Promote active living for all ages. Volunteers prepare the course, direct traffic during the bike and run legs, and cheer on every participant. 7–10:30 a.m. Bryan Park Pool, 1100 S. Woodlawn Ave.—parking lot 18 yrs. and up

Number of Volunteers: 10

Program Time:

Location:

Age of Volunteers:

Number of Volunteers:

Messy Mania

Tuesday, July 14

Kids get crazy with their hands when we let them experiment with all kinds of messy mediums, with no worries about creating chaos in the house! These hands-on activities will delight every youngster who loves to squish, splatter, and fling! Let us take care of the prep time and clean up, while children experience a morning of head-to-toe, ooey gooeey good times!

Duties:

Have ooey gooeey fun helping kids make ooey gooeey projects! Volunteers assist with preparation, hands-on activities, and don’t forget the cleanup that follows. Shift #1, 8–11 a.m./Shift #2, 11 a.m.–1 p.m. Bryan Park—1001 S. Henderson St.—Henderson Shelter 14 yrs. and up

Number of Volunteers: 10 per shift

Other: Wear clothing you don’t mind getting messy.

Program Time:

Location:

Age of Volunteers:

Number of Volunteers:

Tomato Tasting

Saturday, August 1

Experience the spectrum of heirloom tomatoes the Bloomington Community Farmers’ Market has to offer. Yellow, orange, purple, green—patrons are able to taste a kaleidoscope of colors and expand their horizons beyond the common red tomato!

Duties:

Take part in one of the glories of summer as you distribute samples of different tomatoes. 7 a.m.–1 p.m. Showers Plaza, 401 N. Morton St. 16 yrs. and up

Number of Volunteers: 12

Program Time:

Location:

Age of Volunteers:

Number of Volunteers:

Drool in the Pool

Wednesday, August 12

Thursday, August 13

Mills Pool is closed for humans, but is open for two more days of swimming for our canine friends. The first evening features dog paddling fun and a jumping contest. The second evening is filled with a variety of entertaining contests, giveaways, and more swimming. Various pet-related businesses and organizations will be on hand during the second night only. Dog guards are on duty to supervise any dogs gone wild but are not expected to get into the pool.

Duties:

Don’t let the dog days of summer get you down. Assist with doggie giveaways and contests and become a dog lifeguard! Help give our four-legged friends two days to relax at the pool! 4:30–8:30 p.m. Mills Pool, 1100 W. 14th St. 16 yrs. and up

Number of Volunteers: 5 per evening

Program Time:

Location:

Age of Volunteers:

Number of Volunteers:

Junk in the Trunk

Saturday, August 22

The Junk in the Trunk community rummage sale is recycling and treasure hunting all at the same time! There is plenty of room outside the Frank Southern Ice Arena for many different vendors to set up and sell unwanted furniture, books, clothing, toys, household goods, and more.

Duties:

Be where the treasures are. Volunteers assist staff in setup and running the event. There will also be time to do your own treasure hunting. Shift #1, 6:30–10 a.m./Shift #2, 10 a.m.–2 p.m. Frank Southern Ice Arena, 2100 S. Henderson St. 16 yrs. and up

Number of Volunteers: 3–4 per shift

Program Time:

Location:

Age of Volunteers:

Number of Volunteers:

Play Day

Friday, September 4

Come out and PLAY! Bloomington has once again been named a Playful City USA by KaBOOM!, and we intend to celebrate! We’ll have games, a bounce house, and playful activities for kids of all ages. The evening ends with the showing of the family-friendly movie “Hairspray” on the big screen!

Duties:

Recall your childhood playing in the park. Assist with various outdoor activities that promote healthy, active lifestyles. 5:30–8:30 p.m. Bryan Park, 1001 S. Henderson St. 16 yrs. and up

Number of Volunteers: 2

Program Time:

Location:

Age of Volunteers:

Number of Volunteers:

A Touch a Truck volunteer greet families who have come to see trucks, buses, and other interesting vehicles up close and personal.

ONGOING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

TRAINING: Volunteers are required to attend a volunteer orientation prior to program.

Bloomington Walking Club

Thursdays, May 7–October 29

Join a fun and informal gathering of walkers to develop healthy physical activity habits and meet new friends. Walkers choose from a two- or four-mile route and go at their own pace. Presented by IU Health Bloomington, Southern Indiana Physicians, and Bloomington Parks and Recreation.

Duties:

Embrace a healthy lifestyle and share it with others from the Bloomington community. Lead the walking group on their two- or four-mile route. Ensure safety and provide encouragement along the way. 5:30–7:30 p.m. Olcott Park, 2300 E. Canada Dr. 18 yrs. and up

Number of Volunteers: 1–2

Program Time:

Location:

Age of Volunteers:

Number of Volunteers:

Tuesday Market

Tuesdays, June 2–September 29

This is a mid-week opportunity to purchase fresh, locally grown produce directly from the grower. Outdoor dining and live music make this a relaxing evening occasion to shop and mingle.

Duties:

If you enjoy the ambiance of the Saturday Farmers’ Market, but your weekends fill up quickly, the Tuesday Market volunteer opportunity is for you! Assist with the supervision of the Market, distribute Parks and Recreation material, and promote the sale of Market products. 4–7 p.m. Next to Bloomingfoods Near West Side on Sixth and Madison Streets 18 yrs. and up

Number of Volunteers: 1–4

Other: Volunteer for one to four Tuesdays a month.

Program Time:

Location:

Age of Volunteers:

Number of Volunteers:

Adopt-a-Trail

July 2015–June 2016

Monthly inspections/One-year commitment

More than 30 trail miles in Bloomington’s city parks need periodic inspections and maintenance to remain safe and usable. Volunteers have been valuable in establishing and maintaining our trails for many years. Parks and Recreation staff provide training and equipment to volunteer individuals and groups of any size for monthly trail monitoring and annual trail maintenance.

Duties:

Inspect adopted trail at least once a month. Complete and submit reports on trail status. Provide maintenance as needed. Do at least one work day per year. Staff works with your group or organization to formulate a work plan. Trail inspections can be completed at your leisure. Schedule your trail work day with the Adopt-a-Trail coordinator. Volunteers must submit an online application by June 5. An orientation takes place in late June. One-year appointment starts July 1. Various trails are available for adoption. 12 yrs. and up

Number of Volunteers: Individuals and groups of varying sizes are welcome. Recruitment class determined by number of available trails.

Program Time:

Time line:

Locations:

Age of Volunteers:

Number of Volunteers:

Adopt-an-Acre

July 2015–June 2016

Monthly visits/One-year commitment

Adopt-an-Acre is an all-volunteer program that gives the public the opportunity to actively address invasive plant issues in Bloomington and Monroe County. Griffy has thriving populations of bush honeysuckle, garlic mustard, winter creeper, privet, and multiflora rose, all which are out-competing native plants. Parks and Recreation staff provide the necessary training in invasive plant identification and equip volunteers to proactively monitor and remove impeding plants within their adopted area.

Duties:

Inspect and make progress in removing invasive plants in adopted area of Griffy Lake Nature Preserve a minimum of once a month. Complete and submit monthly progress reports. Attend quarterly training workshops or review electronic training materials to adequately identify invasive plants and learn proper technique for removing. Schedule a minimum of one structured work day per year. Staff works with you or your group to formulate a work plan. Inspections and progress visits can be completed at your leisure. Volunteers must submit an online application by June 5. An orientation takes place in late June. One-year appointment starts July 1. Various parcels of land are available for adoption at Griffy Lake Nature Preserve. We have plot sizes for individuals and for groups. 12 yrs. and up

Number of Volunteers: Individuals and groups of varying sizes are welcome. Recruitment class determined by number of available plots.

Program Time:

Time line:

Locations:

Age of Volunteers:

Number of Volunteers:

Adopt-a-Stream

August 2015–July 2016

Monthly Inspections/One-year commitment

Adopt-a-Stream is an all-volunteer program that gives the public an opportunity to be actively involved in conserving and maintaining the natural wealth and beauty of streams that run through public park property owned by the City of Bloomington and Monroe County. Staff provide training and equipment for monthly stream monitoring and annual stream maintenance.

Duties:

Inspect adopted stream at least once a month. Complete and submit reports on stream condition. Provide general maintenance such as removing debris and litter. Attend a Hoosier Riverwatch workshop and perform water quality monitoring techniques at the stream at least four times per year. Schedule a minimum of one structured work day per year. Staff works with you or your group to formulate a work plan. Stream inspections can be completed at your leisure. Volunteers must submit an online application by June 26. An orientation takes place in July. One-year appointment starts August 1. Various streams are available for adoption in Bloomington and Monroe County. 12 yrs. and up

Number of Volunteers: Individuals and groups of varying sizes are welcome. Recruitment class determined by number of available streams.

Program Time:

Time line:

Locations:

Age of Volunteers:

Number of Volunteers:

Leisure Companion

May–August

The Leisure Companion Program is a service in which participants with disabilities are partnered with a volunteer companion who provides additional support during participation in inclusive activities. The level of support will vary according to the specific needs of each individual.

Duties:

As a Leisure Companion, you facilitate inclusion by advocating for the participant, providing support during activities, protecting the dignity of the participant, emphasizing similarities of participants, creating an environment for success, encouraging independent participation, and most of all, being a supportive friend! Dates and times will vary according to program needs. Locations of events and programs vary depending on program registration. 16 yrs. and up

Program Time:

Locations:

Age of Volunteers:

Adopt-a-Trail volunteers have been valuable in maintaining the many wonderful Bloomington trails.